FROM EXECUTIVE PRODUCER LEE STROBEL

THE SCIENCE THAT REVEALS A MIND BEHIND THE UNIVERSE

THE STORY OF EVERYTHING

CHURCH DISCUSSION GUIDE | HANDOUT

For church leaders, small groups, student ministry, and community groups

TheStoryOfEverything.film

A Sypher Studios Production | Fathom Events

WATCH TRAILER

HOW TO USE THIS HANDOUT

About This Handout

This handout is designed for group participants — it contains the discussion questions only, without answers, so your group can engage with the material directly. It follows the same four-chapter structure as the film.

The film can be paused at each chapter-part marker for discussion, or you can watch the full film first and then work through the questions together.

For the Leaders Guide — which includes full answers and discussion notes — ask your group leader or visit TheStoryOfEverything.film.

The Story of Everything is available to view in theaters from **April 30 – May 6, 2026**. To find a theater near you, visit **TheStoryOfEverything.film**.

FOREWORD

The Heavens Declare

Aldous Huxley, author of *A Brave New World*, once said, "Modern science makes it impossible to believe in a personal God." But was Huxley right? Today, modern science is showing us more of what Christians already know: the universe is not a product of randomness, but was designed with such intricacy and beauty that points to a designer.

Psalm 119 tells us to look up and behold. "The heavens," declares David in Psalm 19, "declare the glory of God." True scientific inquiry, rather than leading us away from the knowledge of God, forces even the most skeptical to reckon with reality. From the intricacy of the living cell to the exact cosmic placement of Earth to the expansion of the universe to the singularity, there is mounting evidence of a beginning and an intelligent cause.

This film, *The Story of Everything*, features some prominent scholars wrestling with the amazing beauty, structure, and coherence of a universe whose vastness and complexity we are only beginning to understand. I encourage you, if you are a follower of Jesus, to watch this film to bolster your faith. The film will remind you that the truths you believe about God are not based on a weak foundation, but are bolstered by signposts embedded in creation that can only point to a Creator. This should cause us to fall down in worship and awe of the one who formed us with his hands and breathed into us the breath of life.

If you are not a believer, may I invite you to watch *The Story of Everything* with an open mind? Consider what the Christian gospel says about the heavens, that "day after day they pour out speech (Psalm 19:2)."

Perhaps you've seen this film and have further questions. I invite you to engage the resources here, including this Discussion Guide. If you have questions, please engage a Christian friend or family member.

Christians believe that not only does Creation point us to a designer, but that designer is the triune God of the Bible who not only created the world, but sustains it by his power. We were created by that God in his image and made to know him. Through his son, who is both human and divine, we can have a relationship with the God who hung the stars. We can experience his love, his grace, and his forgiveness.

This Discussion Guide contains questions and Scriptures to help you on this journey.

— Daniel Darling

Director of the Land Center for Cultural Engagement at Southwestern Seminary, columnist for *World*, and author of several books including, *The Dignity Revolution*, *Agents of Grace*, and *In Defense of Christian Patriotism*.

INTRODUCTION

Two Rival Stories of Everything

Question 1

The film introduces two competing stories of everything (two explanations of reality). What are these two rival stories which need to be evaluated?

Question 2

Read Genesis 1:1. What does it mean that the Bible begins with God, not mere matter or energy?

Read: Genesis 1:1

Question 3

What does atheist Richard Dawkins believe will happen to him when he dies? Which "story of everything" leads Dawkins to believe this about his future?

Question 4

What if the evidence best supports the other story of everything — the one Dawkins denies? What would that mean for your future?

Question 5

Read Acts 12:24–28. Where does Paul claim that purpose and meaning originate?

Read: Acts 12:24–28

CHAPTER 1

The Beginning

Part One: The Expansion

Question 1

Astronomer Edwin Hubble found evidence that the universe is expanding. Why does the expansion of the universe mean that the universe had a beginning?

Question 2

Read Genesis 1:1–3. Genesis implies a beginning. Many debate whether the universe had a beginning. Why is this debate important?

Read: Genesis 1:1–3

Part Two: Rival Cosmologies

Question 3

Cosmologist Fred Hoyle tried to avoid a cosmic beginning by a steady state theory. How was Hoyle's theory defeated after a key prediction of the Big Bang theory was confirmed by two physicists in 1964?

Question 4

Read Hebrews 11:3. The writer of Hebrews says "by faith" we "understand the universe was formed at God's command." In our contemporary world, why is faith often depicted as unreasonable?

Read: Hebrews 11:3

Question 5

Is it possible to approach discovery and observation without any faith (such as faith that the human mind is capable of reasoning because it was created by God rather than emerged from unintelligent natural processes)?

Part Three: The Singularity

Question 6

Scientists have discovered that mass causes a curvature of space and time. As you go back in time, space-time curvature approaches infinity, known as the "singularity." Why does this mean that space, time, and matter all had a beginning? Consequently, why must the cause of the universe be beyond space, time, and matter?

Part Four: A Mind Behind the Universe

Question 7

Some scientists have suggested that the mathematical structure of natural laws has the power to create the universe. What's wrong with this proposal?

Question 8

Read Isaiah 55:8–9. Why is it important that God's thoughts are higher than ours?

Read: Isaiah 55:8–9

CHAPTER 2

The Goldilocks Universe

Part One: The Fine Tuning of the Laws of Physics

Question 1

Imagine a machine that creates universes. There are dials on this machine for selecting natural laws and other features. Only a very tiny combination of dial settings would generate universes that make life possible (this is

the "fine tuning" of the cosmos). Because all of these selections need to be "just right" for life, what kind of cause is needed to create a cosmos that can host life?

Question 2

Read Job 38:4–7. What does it say about God's sustaining, providential, guiding hand in the universe?

Read: Job 38:4–7

Part Two: Fine Tuning from the Beginning

Question 3

There's another type of fine tuning, which is the extremely ordered arrangement of matter at the beginning of the universe. As the universe ages, it becomes less orderly. The initial orderly structure of the universe must have been nearly perfect for life to be possible. Why is chance not a good explanation of this kind of hyper-exponential fine tuning?

Part Three: Planetary Fine Tuning

Question 4

Many "just right" factors are required to have a habitable planet (one that can host life). The low probability of each of these factors contributes to an overall extremely low probability of the occurrence of all these factors in one location, so as to have a habitable planet. How does this show that Earth is rare and special?

Part Four: The Multiverse

Question 5

Some scientists believe in the multiverse — a vast number of randomly generated universes. They say our universe is one of the few lucky universes with life. Does this theory successfully avoid the need for a creator? Why?

Question 6

Read Psalm 8:3–4. Why does the vastness of the universe make God's care for us surprising and special?

Read: Psalm 8:3–4

CHAPTER 3

Design of Life

Part One: Molecular Machines

Question 1

The living cell is an enormously complex miniaturized factory full of tiny molecular machines that are built of proteins. These machines have functions required for life, such as the flagellum motor that enables bacteria to swim. How do molecular machines such as the flagellum look designed, rather than haphazardly evolved?

Question 2

Read Psalm 139:13–14. How does the functional complexity of the human body vindicate David's words in Psalm 139?

Read: Psalm 139:13–14

Part Two: Cracking the Code

Question 3

Proteins are composed of long chains of smaller organic compounds known as amino acids. Using the analogy of written language, amino acids are like individual letters of the alphabet. How is creating a cell like writing a book? What is the only known cause capable of generating this information?

Question 4

Read Job 10:8–12; Genesis 2:7; Isaiah 64:8. What is unique about how humans are created compared to the way God created the rest of the world?

Read: Job 10:8–12; Genesis 2:7; Isaiah 64:8

Part Three: The Origin of Life

Question 5

For many years those studying how life originated tried to show how DNA and proteins could have assembled themselves before cells existed. Explain the failure of experiments aimed at showing how life could have originated without intelligent guidance.

Question 6

Read John 5:26; Psalm 36:9. What does it mean that life originates in God Himself?

Read: John 5:26; Psalm 36:9

Part Four: The Origin of the Code

Question 7

What two traits — if both are detected — enable us to know that something was intelligently designed? How does this apply to Mount Rushmore and DNA's code?

Question 8

Read Romans 1:19–20; Psalm 19:1–4. How does creation communicate without words?

Read: Romans 1:19–20; Psalm 19:1–4

CHAPTER 4

The Story of Everything

Question 1

Which story of everything makes sense of the world's stunning beauty?

Question 2

Which story of everything offers the best prospect of recognizing your personal life as objectively meaningful and beautifully purposeful?

Question 3

Read Psalm 27:4. Given what we've seen in this film, how should it motivate Christians?

Read: Psalm 27:4

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."

— Psalm 19:1